

OREGON SUPREME COURT

Justices	 Martha Walters	 Chris Garrett	 Lynn Nakamoto	 Thomas Balmer	 Meagan A. Flynn	 Adrienn Nelson	 Rebecca Duncan
Confidence Score	Mild Democrat	Strong Democrat	Strong Democrat	Strong Democrat	Mild Democrat	Mild Democrat	Mild Democrat
Opinion Partners							
Dissenting Minority							
Determining Majority							
Lone Dissenter							

- ▶ Number of justices: **7**
- ▶ Number of cases: **53**
- ▶ Percentage of cases with a unanimous ruling: **88.7% (47)**
- ▶ Justice most often writing the majority opinion: **Justice Balmer (10)**
- ▶ Per curiam decisions: **8**
- ▶ Concurring opinions: **2**
- ▶ Justice with most concurring opinions: **Justice Duncan (1)**
- ▶ Dissenting opinions: **6**
- ▶ Justice with most dissenting opinions: **Justice Balmer (2)**

COURT CONTENTION

Opinion partners

In 2020, three cases before the Oregon Supreme Court were decided 5-2. In two of those cases Justices Nakamoto and Nelson were **opinion partners**. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justice Nakamoto recorded a Strong Democratic Confidence Score and Justice Nelson recorded a Mild Democratic Confidence Score.

Dissenting minority

In 2020, no cases before the Oregon Supreme Court were decided by split decision.

Determining majority

In 2020, no cases before the Oregon Supreme Court were decided by split decision.

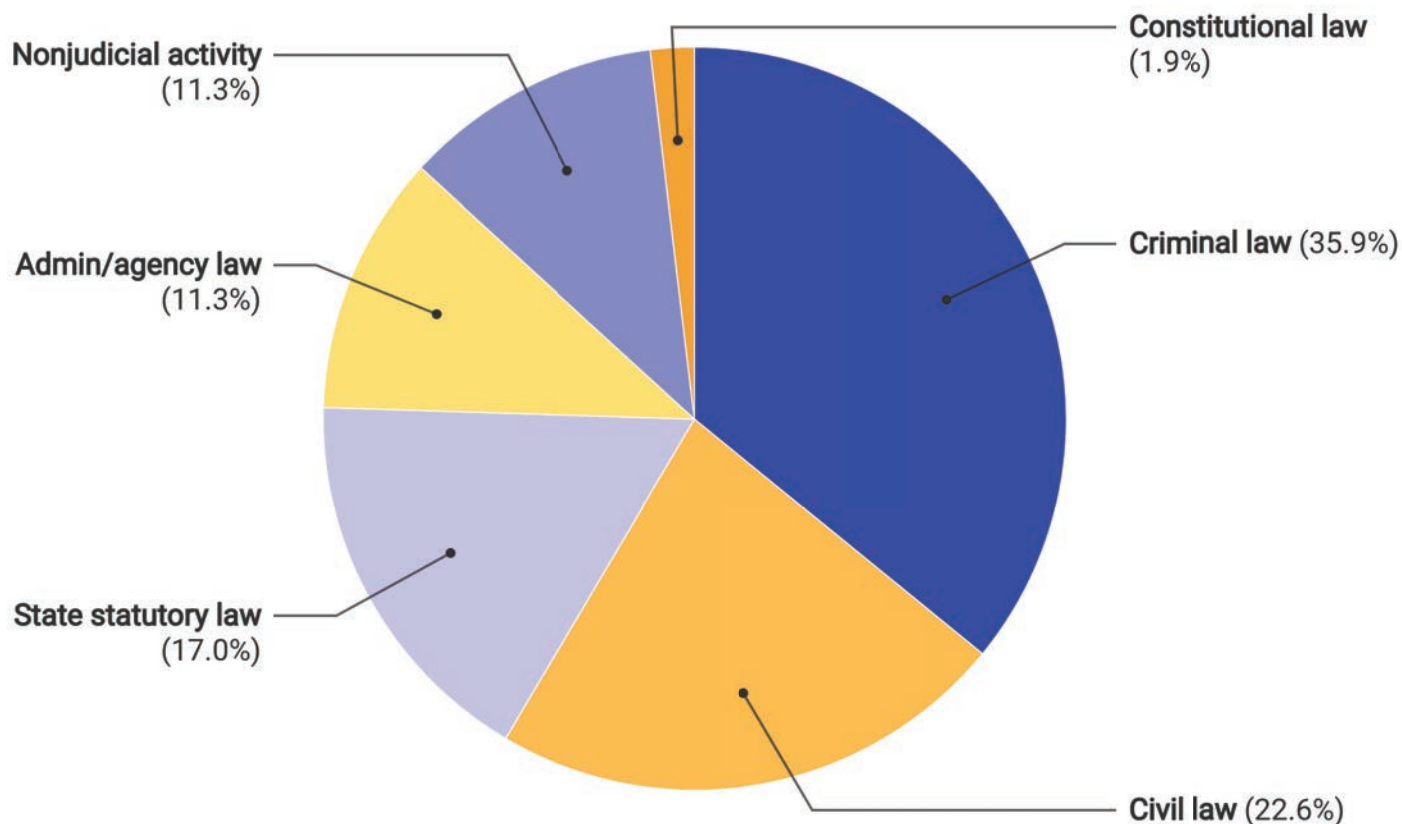
Lone dissenter

In 2020, three cases before the Oregon Supreme Court were decided 6-1. In two of those cases Justice Balmer was a lone dissenter. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justice Balmer recorded a Strong Democratic Confidence Score.

COURT JURISDICTION

The Oregon Supreme Court has discretionary jurisdiction to review decisions from the Oregon Court of Appeals. The court also “hears direct appeals in death penalty, lawyer and judicial discipline, and Oregon Tax Court cases,” “may accept original jurisdiction in mandamus, quo warranto and habeas corpus proceedings,” and “reviews ballot measure titles, prison siting disputes, reapportionment of legislative districts and legal questions on Oregon law referred by federal courts.”

Case types decided by Oregon Supreme Court, 2020



BALLOTPEDIA

The most common case category heard by the Oregon Supreme Court in 2020 was criminal law. Of the 53 cases it heard, 19 were criminal cases, or 35.8 percent of its total caseload for the year. A criminal case involves a final criminal appeal before the court of last resort.

The second most common cases that reached the court were civil cases. A civil case is one that involves a dispute between two parties, one of whom seeks reparations or damages. The Oregon Supreme Court heard 12 civil law cases in 2020, or 22.6 percent of its total caseload for the year.

The third most common cases that reached the supreme court were state statutory cases. A state statutory case involves the violation or enforcement of a state statute. The Oregon Supreme Court heard nine State Statutory Law cases in 2020, or 17.0 percent of its total caseload for the year.